

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 – 2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) A method for dynamically integrating a portal fragment of a remote portal into a local portal while maintaining a look and feel of the local portal, of the method comprising:

identifying a reference in an existing navigation tree of the local portal representing a placeholder for a navigation tree of the remote portal fragment, wherein the navigation tree defines a relationship between nodes of the navigation tree;

establishing communication with the remote portal;

sending, by the local portal, a request for meta-information for the remote portal fragment;

receiving the meta-information from the remote portal describing the navigation tree of the remote portal fragment to be integrated;

merging the existing navigation tree with the navigation tree of the remote portal fragment to be integrated as described by the meta-information that is received, resulting in a new navigation tree; and rendering an integrated portal page by traversing the new navigation tree, wherein rendering the integrated portal page comprises:

~~responsive to~~ identifying references to the remote portal fragment in the new navigation tree during rendering, and in response to the identifying the references during the rendering, establishing communication with the remote portal and receiving a markup of the remote portal fragment for displaying the remote portal fragment into the integrated portal page.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein the step of receiving the meta-information comprises:

loading a navigation tree of the remote portal if a portal fragment request is received by the remote portal;

extracting the navigation tree of the remote portal fragment to be integrated from the navigation tree of the remote portal; and

inserting the navigation tree of the remote portal fragment into an extensible markup language document.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 4, further comprising:
receiving the meta-information by the local portal in a standardized extensible markup language format.
6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein the meta-information is converted from the standardized extensible markup language format into a format of the existing navigation tree of the local portal before merging.
7. (Cancelled)